



# NEWS RELEASE

**Pueblo Chemical Depot**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2010

U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot  
45825 Highway 96 East  
Pueblo, Colorado

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## Mustard Agent Vapor Detected

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo.— At approximately 10:20 a.m. June 3, during a chemical munition isolation operation, chemical workers detected a low level of mustard agent vapor inside an igloo, which stores overpack containers at Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The agent vapor was detected by a miniature continuous air monitoring system (MINICAMS), specifically designed to analyze the air inside the storage structures by drawing air samples from within the earth covered igloo or when connected to an individual pallet.

Operations in this permitted storage igloo started last week as crews began preparations for X-ray operations of overpacked containers so that engineers could see the status of the munitions within the overpacked containers. At the time, the MINICAMS gave indications of trace levels of agent vapor. Highly trained Depot personnel initiated isolation operations in order to validate these indications. Isolation operations involve placing impermeable covers over the munitions pallets and then monitoring the air under the cover. This isolation process allowed vapor concentrations to build up giving the vapor detection readings reported today.

Prior to the start of the isolation operation, a charcoal filter was attached to the air vent on the back of the storage structure. The air filtration unit cleans the contaminated ambient air inside the igloo by forcing the air through the carbon filters.

At no time were workers at the depot or members of the surrounding communities in any danger. The safety of the surrounding communities, the depot work force and the environment remains the primary concern of depot officials and the U.S. Army.

County and state officials were notified. Additional information will be provided as soon as it is received.

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*The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) with headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., stores the nation's aging chemical weapons and develops programs aimed at effectively treating and ultimately eliminating chemical warfare materiel. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil).*